

# Cr Nicole Johnston

Councillor for Tennyson Ward



22 July 2009

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane  
Councillor Campbell Newman  
GPO Box 2287  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Tabled and presented to Council  
at its 4636 Meeting held on

17/12/2020.

Tabled by: Cr Johnston

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Dear Lord Mayor

I seek your urgent consideration of an alternative site for the proposed bus depot at Sherwood to ensure that residents in Sherwood and surrounding suburbs are not subjected to increased traffic congestion, potential safety hazards and loss of community amenity.

I strongly oppose the construction and operation of a bus depot at Sherwood Road, Sherwood.

On Monday 13 July I was briefed by Brisbane Transport representatives about Council's plan to acquire the old Index Storage site at 496 Sherwood Road, Sherwood for the purposes of a Council bus depot. I subsequently meet with Councillor Prentice and Council Officers on Tuesday 14 July to express my concerns.

While I understand and appreciate your desire to provide better bus facilities for the city, I believe there are a number of problems with the acquisition of the site for this purpose and I strongly urge you to urgently reconsider.

My concerns fall under a number of categories including community amenity, public safety and traffic management.

## Community Amenity

- The proposal has not been included as part of consultation on the Sherwood Graceville Neighbourhood Plan that has been undertaken over the past two years and the community is unaware of the proposal;
- The area is being rezoned as part of the Neighbourhood Plan to prevent heavy/general industry uses, like a bus depot, in future;
- With hundreds of bus movements per day over a 20 hour period, the noise, lights and traffic congestion will negatively impact on residents adjoining the depot site, in the surrounding streets and on the nearby recreational and retail precincts;
- The depot adjoins a sensitive waterway corridor, Oxley Creek and environmental area at the Oxley Common.

## Public Safety

- The area adjoins quiet residential areas in Sherwood and Corinda with many residents, including children, walking and cycling in the area at all hours of the day;
- The proposed depot is approximately 500m from Sherwood State School with five other schools located with direct access to Oxley Road within a few kilometres of the site - including a number of schools that participate in Council's Active School Travel programme);
- Oxley Road floods regularly with the road closed for days at a time (most recently May 2009 and November 2008).

## **Traffic Management**

- Oxley Road is one lane in many places and carries more than 32,000 vehicles per day and is extremely congested in the AM, PM and school peak periods;
- Fairfield Road is also congested carrying around 25,000 trucks and vehicles per day including B-doubles and large semi trailers;
- The intersection at Sherwood Road and Oxley Road is heavily congested and services a large state school, Anglican Church and Church hall, petrol station and community shopping precinct;
- There is a congested open level rail crossing at Sherwood approx 1km away at one of the only west-bound crossing points not constricted by a low rail bridge;
- The Walter Taylor Bridge is overloaded, undergoing repairs and is a major bottleneck with delays of up to one hour on weekdays and weekends;
- One of the most dangerous intersections in the ward is located approximately 1.5kms away at Clewley St/Oxley Road Corinda, a common accident site;
- There are five low rail bridges within a 1.5 km radius of the proposed bus depot site, with Council buses and trucks regularly stuck under these bridges causing substantial traffic dislocation and congestion;
- The Ipswich Motorway is often congested around the Centenary Motorway and Oxley Road making access to arterial roads difficult at certain times;
- The entrance will be located extremely close to crest of a hill over a rail line with limited visibility;
- There is no direct access to an arterial road; and
- The Fairfield Road/Sherwood Road/Muriel Avenue intersection floods and is one of the busiest for large/heavy and high vehicles heading to the Rocklea Industrial are and Brisbane Markets.

Please note that the briefing provided last week does not include a detailed traffic management plan on the viability of the road network to support the proposed depot. I believe this work has not yet been completed, and that it will only be done as part of the development application once the site has been purchased. This should be a critical part of due diligence prior to acquiring the site. As a result, I am concerned, both as a local resident and Council's representative, that the operational viability of a bus depot would be jeopardised by traffic congestion and road network capacity constraints in the area.

## **Alternative Site Suggestions**

I have proposed an alternative site to Councillor Prentice for consideration within Tennyson Ward adjoining the Oxley Water Treatment Plant. This site is owned by Council, is in an industrial area and will not impact upon residents or community facilities, like schools, and has good access to Ipswich Road, a major arterial road to assist depot operations.

In addition, I note that the purpose built Willawong Bus Depot is surrounded by open space including land of sale, and existing Council land that could easily facilitate an extension. The facility is located well away from residential areas, schools, parks and other amenities and is serviced by purpose built roads and dual lane carriage way.

I strongly urge you to consider these suggestions as viable alternatives to the Sherwood Road site and note my strong opposition to the construction of a bus depot at 496 Sherwood Road, Sherwood.

Our commitment at the last election was to reduce traffic congestion in suburban streets and to enhance the liveability of Tennyson Ward suburbs. I am concerned that the construction and operation of a bus depot at Sherwood fails to deliver on this commitment to the people of Tennyson Ward.

Yours sincerely

**Nicole Johnston**  
**Councillor for Tennyson**